



# MINUTES

## Council Work Session Meeting

6:00 PM - Monday, November 27, 2023

Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

The City Council of the City of Union was called to order on November 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** John Farmer, Susan Hawkins, Tim Cox, Councilor Anita Boyer-Davis, Councilor Dick Middleton, Councilor John Black, and Councilor Jay Blackburn

**EXCUSED:**

### 2. PRESENTATIONS:

### 3. UPCOMING BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS:

- a) Discuss merger between the City of Union Fire/EMS & the Union Rural Fire Protection District

Mayor Hawkins said we want to discuss the merger between city and rural services. Interim City Administrator Vanderwall said I think we need to do the resolution first to get this put back on the ballot for the citizens to vote on.

Mayor Hawkins said we also need to discuss the shortfall in the fire and EMS budget. It has been 12 years since we had an increase. She discussed the equipment that needs to be replaced really soon. She also discussed the need to up the training budget line to get all the volunteers trained. Council discussed the funds and what has been spent this year.

Council discussed raising the fee before the election or waiting until after the election. They also discussed what would happen to the budget if the election passed. They also discussed the items that aren't needed immediately.

Leonard Flint explained how the ambulance works with the stock show. He asked about the budget on fire and EMS and why an increase is necessary. He also discussed the tax rate the rural charges. I encourage the Council to be very open and honest about this rate increase and make corrections. I

understand both sides of this, but the numbers don't make sense. Council and Mr. Flint discussed the issues with fire and EMS and discussed the equipment.

Council and Mr. Flint discussed where the equipment funds should come from. Mr. Flint said you need to be careful. Mayor Hawkins said one way or another we need to listen to our fire chief and get the necessary equipment. Council discussed the shortage of the fire and EMS budget again. They discussed moving funds out of the reserve to cover the shortage.

Then, they discussed where the funds would be applied in equipment and training. Council discussed other options for covering the stock show this coming summer. Councilor Cox discussed the actual resolution from 2013 and that the rate can't be changed until April by the resolution. Council continued to discuss the possibility of different options in working on the shortage in the fire and EMS budget and where the money is most needed.

Leonard Flint said the income is \$185,000. You can make changes in a work session. Council discussed this with Mr. Flint. Mr. Flint said you should listen to your own meetings and listen as if you know nothing about what is going on.

b) **Consideration of New Administrator's Contract**

Mayor Hawkins said you all have a copy of the draft contract and her letter in response to the contract. I have forwarded the question on termination without cause to our city attorney. Council began discussing the contract and salary. Councilor Farmer voiced his concerns about the salary being too high. Council continued to discuss the salary of a city administrator and what the interim city administrator makes currently.

Council will consider this further at the next special meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. Council reviewed the past motions and made sure of the process again. They discussed the contract and that it is something Council has read before with very few changes.

Mike O'Connor said I am interested in the charter and ordinance review. Council and Mr. O'Connor discussed that the next work session will discuss that.

Councilor Middleton also voiced his concerns that the salary is too much. Council discussed the previous administrators pay compared to the proposed salary now. They also discussed why other professions are seeing shortages as well.

**4. COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS:**


**5. ORDINANCE/CHARTER REVIEW:**

6. **OTHER:**

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

This meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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City Administrator